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Case of plague on the steamship Coptic at Kobe.

YOKOHAMA, JAPAN, August 31, 1900.

SIR: I have the honor to report that, upon the arrival at Kobe, August 15 of O. and O. steamship *Coptic*, outward bound from San Francisco via Honolulu and Yokohama, a case of high temperature with suspicious inguino-femoral bubo, was found among her Chinese passengers from Honolulu. The ship was detained and a microscopic examination made of fluid from the glandular swelling, but with negative results. On the following day, however, pneumonic symptoms developed and the plague bacillus was found in the sputum. The patient died on the third day after arrival at Kobe. The ship was, of course, quarantined for the term adopted by the Japanese Government, viz, ten days after completion of disinfection, and was liberated August 28, when she proceeded on her voyage to Hongkong. This case is interesting from the fact that, no plague having been present for a long time in Honolulu, and never having existed in Yokohama, infection was probably due to baggage contaminated during the late outbreak in Hawaii.

Respectfully,

STUART ELDRIDGE,

Acting Assistant Surgeon, U. S. M. H. S.

The SURGEON-GENERAL,

*U. S. Marine-Hospital Service.**Dysentery, cholera, and plague in Japan.*

YOKOHAMA, JAPAN, September 4, 1900.

SIR: I have the honor to forward herewith a report of the occurrence of dysentery in Japan for period July 21 to August 20 of the present year, the totals being 6,162 cases and 1,049 deaths. From July 26 to August 20, 1899, a shorter though closely corresponding time, there were 13,901 cases and 4,083 deaths.

The summer of the present year, although since the middle of July the hottest since 1886, has been exceedingly dry, a fact that, in view of the probable method of spread of dysentery, may have a bearing on the marked diminution of the annual epidemic as compared with the outbreaks of the past four or five years.

It will be noticed that this Kanagawa Ken has a larger number of cases than any other prefecture or city; they are, however, almost entirely confined to the rural districts, Yokohama itself suffering but little.

Under date of August 28 the governor of Fukuoka Ken reports that some 40 fatal cases of cholera have occurred in his jurisdiction during the summer, and that the sickness is spreading.

A case of cholera, which appears to have been scientifically verified as such, was reported September 2 in Tokyo. The victim was one of a large gang of coolies, with regard to all of whom strict precautions have been taken.

No case of plague has been detected in Japan proper since July 16. The cessation of the plague at Osaka, ably as it was combatted, coincided so accurately with the onset of the still persisting hot and dry weather that this fact should receive consideration in connection with the history of the late outbreak.

Respectfully,

STUART ELDRIDGE,

*Acting Assistant Surgeon, U. S. M. H. S.,**Sanitary Inspector, Yokohama.*

The SURGEON-GENERAL,

U. S. Marine-Hospital Service.